that Government will decide as to how the funds should be invested;

(c) whether Government will amend the rules in conformity with the Act; and

(d) when will Government sanction 12½ per cent interest for PF pension corpus?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under Sector 5(1A) of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellanenous Provisions Act, 1952, the Fund vests in and is administered by the Central Board of Trustees, EPF Clause 6 of Scheduled II of the Act empowers the Central Government to issue directions or laydown conditions for investment of PF moneys. The rules framed by the Central Government about investment of PF money are already in accordance with the provisions of the Act and as such the question of amending the rules in this regard does not arise.

(d) The proposal to enhance the rate of interest on the Pension Fund deposited in the public account has not been found acceptable by the Government.

Closure of Mills and Factories

2396. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many mills and factories category-wise i.e. large, medium and small are closed or have been declared sick on 31st August, 1998;

(b) how many workers and staff are rendered unemployed as a result of closure; and

(c) how many workers and staff have become idle or temporarily out of employment due to closure of sickness?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Total number of units which have been closed upto 31st August, 1998 and the total number of workers affected as a result of this since, 1995 is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below). Category-wise information on closure/ sickness of large, medium & small industries is not being maintained separately.

Statement

Number of Permanent Closures and Workers Affected thereby in Manufacturing Industry during the year 1995 to 1998 (Jan. to Aug.)

Year	Industry	No. of Units	Workers affected
1995	Manufacturing	155	13482
	Others	28	1013
	Total	183	14495
1996	Manufacturing	191	10831
	Others	13	559
	Total	204	11390
1997	Manufacturing	136	12344
	Others	18	600
	Total	154	12944
1998(P)	Manufacturing	57	2436
	Others	5	39
	Total	62	2475

P = Provisional

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla